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## Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club

[www.pntmc.org.nz](http://www.pntmc.org.nz)

PO Box 1217, Palmerston North

### Newsletter November 2021

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*Great views from the summit of Tahurangi Peak, Ruapehu*

### **COVID 19**

The committee has decided that club activities can be held under the current Level 2 restrictions. Below is our agreed protocol.

#### For club nights:

- Scan in at the Hall and/or sign in with contact details in our attendance book.
- Use the hand sanitiser provided.
- Masks are optional.
- Keep 1 metre distance where possible.
- We will not provide food or drinks.
- If feeling unwell, stay home.
- Everybody is welcome unless they are unwell.

#### For club trips:

- Participants on a club trip form a 'trip bubble'.
- The trip leader is responsible for keeping contact details of everyone in the trip bubble.

## Club Nights

Club nights are held on the second and last Thursday of the month at the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College St, Palmerston North. Doors open at 7:15pm and the meeting starts at 7:30pm. All welcome.

### **Thu 11th November      100 Peaks Challenge      Don French**

Instead of BYO Pics we have reprogrammed this talk after it was cancelled back in September due to COVID constraints. Don French is the first person to complete the NZAC "100 Peaks Challenge", an achievement that has taken him the last 30 years. The list was designed to address the aspirations of climbers at all levels and genres. Hence there are relatively easy peaks, very hard and steep peaks, and a number of very remote peaks. Don will tell us what motivated him, with stories about selected peaks and a 23 minute video.

### **Thu 25th November      How to Paint a Hut      Jean Garmin**

Jean is a member of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club and has been involved with hut maintenance in the Tararua Forest Park for many years. MTSC looks after Mangahao Flats Hut and earlier this year Jean led a keen team to repaint the inside and outside of this 16 bed hut - a massive effort. . Come along and hear all about it.

#### **Trip Grades**

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient tramper should expect to do the trips in the following times:

Easy (E):	3-4 hrs
Medium (M):	5-6 hrs
Fit (F):	about 8 hrs
Fitness Essential (FE):	over 8 hrs

#### **Other Grades:**

Family (Fam)  
Technical skills (T)

**BWD = Best weather day of a weekend**

#### **Trip participants**

Contact the leader at least 3 days in advance. Trips usually leave from Milverton Park. A charge for transport will be collected on the day.

#### **Gear for trips**

Minimum gear for day trips is appropriate footwear, pack, lunch and snacks, waterproof jacket, over-trousers, gloves, warm hat, torch, toilet paper, matches or a lighter, sunblock, first aid kit, and a survival bag or space blanket. Each person needs to be equipped to survive overnight.

#### **Personal Locator Beacons**

The club has two PLBs for member's use. If you want to take one of these on a trip, either a club or private trip, contact Martin or Anne Lawrence 06 357 1695.

#### **Overdue Trips**

If a club trip is late returning, please do not worry as there is probably a good reason for the delay. If you are in any doubt, please phone: Martin Lawrence 357 1695 or Graeme Richards 353 6227

## Upcoming Trips

### **Fri 5th November - Sun 7th November**

**Pohangina River      Medium with River travel**

**Janet Wilson            329 4722**

This springtime river trip is dependent on conditions – weather and river levels permitting, we will go to Top Gorge Hut on the upper section of the Pohangina River. There are some traps to service along the way. Plan A is to leave on the Friday and walk up to Longview Hut for the first night. Please let Janet know early if you are interested in coming on this trip as plans may have to be altered.

### **Fri 12th November - Sun 14th November**

**Pohangina River            Medium with River Travel**

**Janet Wilson            329 4722**

Another 3-day river trip – this time to Leon Kinvig Hut. As for the 5-7 Nov, what we do will depend on conditions – it is still quite early in the season to be able to walk in the lower parts of the river, but it may be OK above LKH. A chance to see Whio and maybe some ducklings. We will either go in over Toka or the Apiti Track.

### **Sun 14th November**

**Wharite                  Easy**

**Warren Wheeler      356 1998**

Feel like a nice walk up from Coppermine Creek track to see the Wharite transmitter tower? Sure, it starts off steep but soon eases off and the views just keep on getting better. Enjoy rocky outcrops and slippery, muddy sections along the ridge through the leatherwood to the Wharite trig for lunch. Return the same way. Depart 8.00am from Milverton Park.

### **Sat 27th November - Sun 28th November**

**Ellis Hut                  Easy**

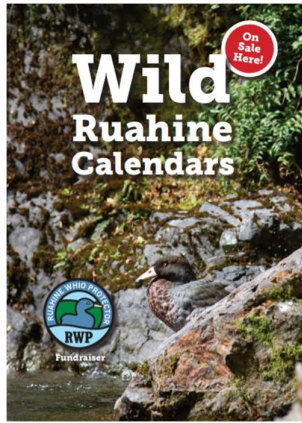
**Bruce van Brunt        328 4761**

Ellis hut was built in 1884 and is certainly the oldest hut in the Ruahines and one of the oldest surviving “mountain buildings” in New Zealand. This building started life as a muster’s hut and has a colourful history that includes a temporary residence in 1904 for the murderer Jack Ellis giving the hut its name and also the name “Murderer’s Hut”. The hut is built with pit sawn timber along with hand dressed timber in the interior. DoC restored this hut some 10 years ago keeping the original character but making it also a clean comfortable place to spend a night. You can still see some fragments of the old newspapers from the early 1900’s used as wall paper and hunt for names carved in the walls that date at least back to the 1930’s. Have a look at the link:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/historic/by-region/echb/conservation-of-ellis-hut/ellis-hut-high-res.pdf>

The hut is located at the edge of the Ruahines under Parks Peak ridge and near the Makaroro river. This trip is meant to be an easy walk (2-3hrs one way) via the Yeoman’s track. The Yeomans Track is an old logging road and is also suitable for mountain bikes. The track itself has modest gradients and is generally pleasant under foot. There are options here ranging from a lazy overnight trip, a day trip, or some mountain biking depending on interest and transport.

At this time of writing, the track to the hut is closed owing to logging activity in the nearby pine forest, which one has to briefly go through. The closure is scheduled to be lifted by mid-November, but there is an ominous clause saying that it might be extended. Access also depends on crossing the Makaroro river. Let us keep our fingers crossed and see if everything falls into place!



## WILD RUAHINE 2022 CALENDAR

The Ruahine Whio Protection Trust with the generous support from local volunteers have again produced a “Wild Ruahine” calendar as a fundraiser.

Design is by club member Anthony Behrens ([www.swampting.co.nz](http://www.swampting.co.nz)), and the beautiful photos have all been donated by local photographers. The cost is \$20.00.

You can order now for early Christmas shopping and help support our local Ruahine conservation project. Calendars will be available in August.

Contact Janet Wilson [jwilson@inspire.net.nz](mailto:jwilson@inspire.net.nz) or see her at a club night.

## COMING SOON! THE ALPINIST Releasing in New Zealand!

THE ALPINIST is an intimate documentary of a visionary climber who follows the path of his own passion, despite the heaviest of possible consequences.

View the trailer here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRn9H\\_I8LXs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRn9H_I8LXs)



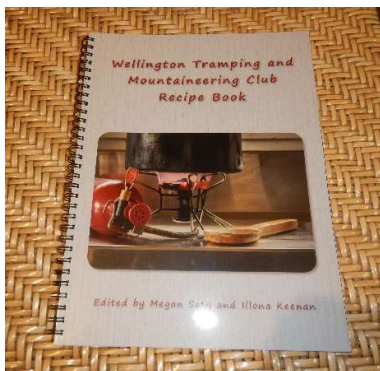
From critically acclaimed director Peter Mortimer (*The Dawn Wall*) and the producers of *The Fourth Phase* and *The Art of Flight*.

Breathtaking, never-before-seen footage of the most extreme climbs ever filmed

Quality documentary with the potential for critical acclaim.

Although Marc-Andre was a relatively elusive person, his ascents and story is widely known in the climbing community

The human aspect of the story will appeal to a broader audience outside of core climbing and adventure sport enthusiasts; Marc-Andre the man and the sheer awe and majesty of his time in the mountains



Dear Palmerston North Tramping & Mountaineering Club.

I'm Tony the Vice-President of the Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club.

We have tramping cookbooks for sale for \$30 plus \$5 p & p. The books are printed on glossy paper with colour photos. There are 96 recipes - mains, desserts, meals for dehydrating, breakfasts, snacks and Tararua biscuits. Many of the recipes list the ingredients required for group meals from 2-12 people. There are vegetarian and vegan suggestions as well.

If people are interested they can get in touch with me

at [vicepresident@wtmc.org.nz](mailto:vicepresident@wtmc.org.nz)



## Trip Reports

**Mt Tongariro**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October**

**Trip Report: Simone Watts**

After completing the Snowcraft Two course a couple of weeks prior, a climb up to Mt Tongariro via the ridge between Mt Tongariro and Mt Ngauruhoe seemed like a fantastic way to spend a bit more time in one of my favourite places, as well as use my new skills with some trusted faces.

We met at 0800 at the Mangatepopo carpark, did one last gear check and loo stop, and we were off. The walk to the bottom of the Devils Staircase was a nice little warm up, and the weather looked great! Winds were light, a little cloud sitting around the mountains. But the further along we went, the more the wind picked up and the cloud increased. So it wasn't very long before we needed to rug up with jackets and gloves.



An hour in and our first decision was upon us. Do we take the old, steep Devil's Staircase to the left, or do we take the new, gentler, formed path to the right? Of course we go left! Thanks Monica! So the slow climb started, and before we knew it we had made it to the start of the ridge between Tongariro and Ngauruhoe. Then up we went! Not a lot of snow, but plenty of rocks to scramble over, with Grant trying to lead us the most complicated way he could find. Good luck to those with shorter legs!

The cloud had come in even more and we couldn't see our destination, but it was time for axes and crampons. The snow then started to fall but it wasn't too long before we had made it to our peak, although the view left a lot to the imagination!

We continued along the ridge to finally join up with the Tongariro Crossing track where we nearly lost Cam down a never-ending hole. Finally, we made it back to the Soda Streams intersection where Roy's skinless heels were able to have a much-needed break. Only an hour of easy walking from there, everyone enjoyed the nice decline back to the carpark while reflecting on the brilliant day we had.



So my first PNTMC trip was a success. Between Dieter's terrible jokes, Grant's fabulous guidance, and great chats from Monica, Roy and Cam, I had a truly brilliant time. You'll all be seeing a whole lot more of this happy tramper!



*Te Ao Tūpare/ A-Frame hut reborn Photo: Warren Wheeler*

On a day with a mixed weather forecast, 7 of us took the challenge of climbing up to A-Frame hut and making a circuit past Stanfield Hut and the Holmes ridge. On a sunny and warm Palmy morning, we gathered at Milverton Park at 7.30 a.m. We left at 7.45 a.m. and arrived at the track's base around 8.45 a.m. We began our adventure at 8:55 a.m. On a personal level, it was like unexpected the unexpected, as it was my first true tramp. We were on a steadily inclined and wide track for the first two hours. At the end of the first hour, it began to rain above us. At 9.40 a.m. we had our first break, during which we had some good discussions on a variety of topics, including politics.

We arrived at the colourful A-Frame hut at 11 a.m. The hut has recently been renovated by the local Dannevirke hapu. The sun had come out, making it a good time to take some p

We continued our journey through the Ruahine Forest for another half hour on a wide and uphill track. We entered a new track that looked invisible to me and was strewn with mud half an hour later. It was difficult to walk through the track because it was constantly raining and the track became many obstacles. We took a short break at 11.45 a.m. to replenish our sugar levels. At noon, we reached the top of our track and began the difficult task of descending to Stanfield Hut.



*Climbing the Takapari ridge on the 4WD road Photo: Ali Muhammad*



After an hour on the difficult downhill track, we arrived at Stanfield Hut at 1.30 p.m. We had a half-hour lunch break at Stanfield Hut. Stanfield Hut, with its orange colour and the fact that there is a stream just 50 meters away, was quite a charming hut. We left Stanfield Hut for the car *park* at 2 p.m. We arrived at the car park after a two-hour walk in relatively stable walking conditions. But the highlight of the trip, in my opinion, was walking through the streams, which we did a few times.

We were Warren Wheeler, Robyn Boocock, Kathy Corner, Blair Petersen, Shana Dooley, Ali Muhammad and Michelle Benton (leader).



*After the muddy ridge track, at the top of the descent to Stanfield  
Photo: Warren Wheeler*



*Stanfield Hut for lunch!  
Photo: Warren Wheeler*



*Final crossing of Tamaki River West Branch before the ascent to Holmes Ridge track.*



With the winter climbing season disrupted by Covid, I finally had a run of trips with three weekends in a row going to Tongariro National Park. It was another good turnout with seasoned climber Malcolm Leary and new Snowcraft instructor Chris Rayner travelling from Marton, recent Snowcraft graduate Monika Coles from Palmerston North, Ashley Mellow who is now residing in Taranaki and new climbing buddies Damien Hawkins and Helen Saville coming from Kati Kati. We met at the big carrot in Ohakune at 7 a.m.

An hour later the group was heading up the slopes on the western side of the Turoa skifield, with a clear view of the peaks 1200 metres above. The weather looked promising as we progressed steadily upwards in hard snow conditions. Eventually we reached the height of the top chair lift and headed east to the Skyline Ridge. Climbing 1200 metres without any flat or down hill stretches requires a good level of fitness.

Once we reached the Skyline Ridge the conditions were icier and the wind had picked up. We donned extra clothing and I put on my warmer gloves. It took a while for my cold hands to re-warm and my toes were feeling the cold. The ridge is steeper than what we had been doing and there was lots of zig zagging to ease the angle of climb. Close to the Summit Ridge the angle of climb increased and a couple of the less experienced of us began to push the boundaries of their comfort zones. It is hard as a trip leader to explain to people what to expect on a trip such as this. For someone that is experienced it can be hard to evaluate how someone new to climbing will deal with various slopes. Everyone kept going and we were soon on the Summit Ridge, not far from the summit. The ridge was narrower than I had seen it before, due to the prevailing wind patterns this season. Although not precipitous it was enough to make some feel a little trepidation. We were soon all on the summit and although it was cold and windy we had great views.

After a short break we headed down from the summit. Ash & I took a steeper direct route off the ridge and headed toward the next peak, Te Ataahui. The wind eased and conditions were far more pleasant. Malcolm & Chris followed not far behind. Damien, Monika & Helen headed back down the same route we had come up. I saw them in the distance slowly and carefully down climbing the steepest section. Going down can often be the most uncomfortable part of a climb.



Four of us got onto the ridge leading to the high point of Te Ataahui and found we needed to down climb to sidle the ridge to get around a steep icy drop. Ash & I headed off down a steep climb through big rime ice formations. There was a tricky section down to easier terrain that led along the ridge. From there it was not too technical to get along the ridge to the highest point. We then dropped down to the easier slopes, passing over a recent slab avalanche that had been set off by explosives. The explosives had left a hole about a metre deep and two metres across.

We reached the ski field and could not see the others as we headed down. Thinking the others would be ahead I looked around to see them a few hundred metres behind. We waited and regrouped and headed back down to the car park. Everyone seemed satisfied with the day's outing and some were very pleased with their first summit of Tahu.



## **PNTMC Photo competition 30 October**

This year we again had more than 100 entries for the club photo competition. It was an enjoyable night with plenty of great photos on show. Harley Betts did a fantastic job as the judge. With Harley's help we could see how cropping can dramatically improve/change a picture.

Harley selected the top three in each category and from this the first three place-getters were chosen by show of hands on the night.

Winner in each category are listed below. The first two place-getters in each of the FMC categories have been entered in the FMC competition.

### **ABOVE BUSHLINE with no Human Element**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Chris Tuffley with An evening on the Dress Circle
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Chris Tuffley with The Beehives
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Roy Ralston with Angelus Lake from climb to Angelus Peak

### **ABOVE BUSHLINE with Human Element**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Chris Tuffley with Winter walk
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Malcolm Leary with Grant descending Nuns Veil
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Warren Wheeler with Turoa Climbing

### **BELOW BUSHLINE with no Human Element**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Chris Tuffley with The Waiohine River
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lynette Price with Spectacular Lake Rotoiti even on a wet day 3<sup>rd</sup> Chris Tuffley with The Maropea River
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Chris Tuffley with The Ohau River

### **BELOW BUSHLINE with Human Element**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jon Atkins with Waiheke Sunset
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Chris Tuffley with Kaipo Valley Track
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Martin Lawrence with Timber Trail fun

### **LONG EXPOSURE**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Chris Tuffley with Winter night at Maungahuka
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Chris Tuffley with Night Sky over Mid Waiohine
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Chris Tuffley with Night sky over Toka Biv

### **NATIVE FLORA & FAUNA**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Chris Tuffley with Grey teal
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Chris Tuffley with Tightrope walker
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sally Hewson with White heron

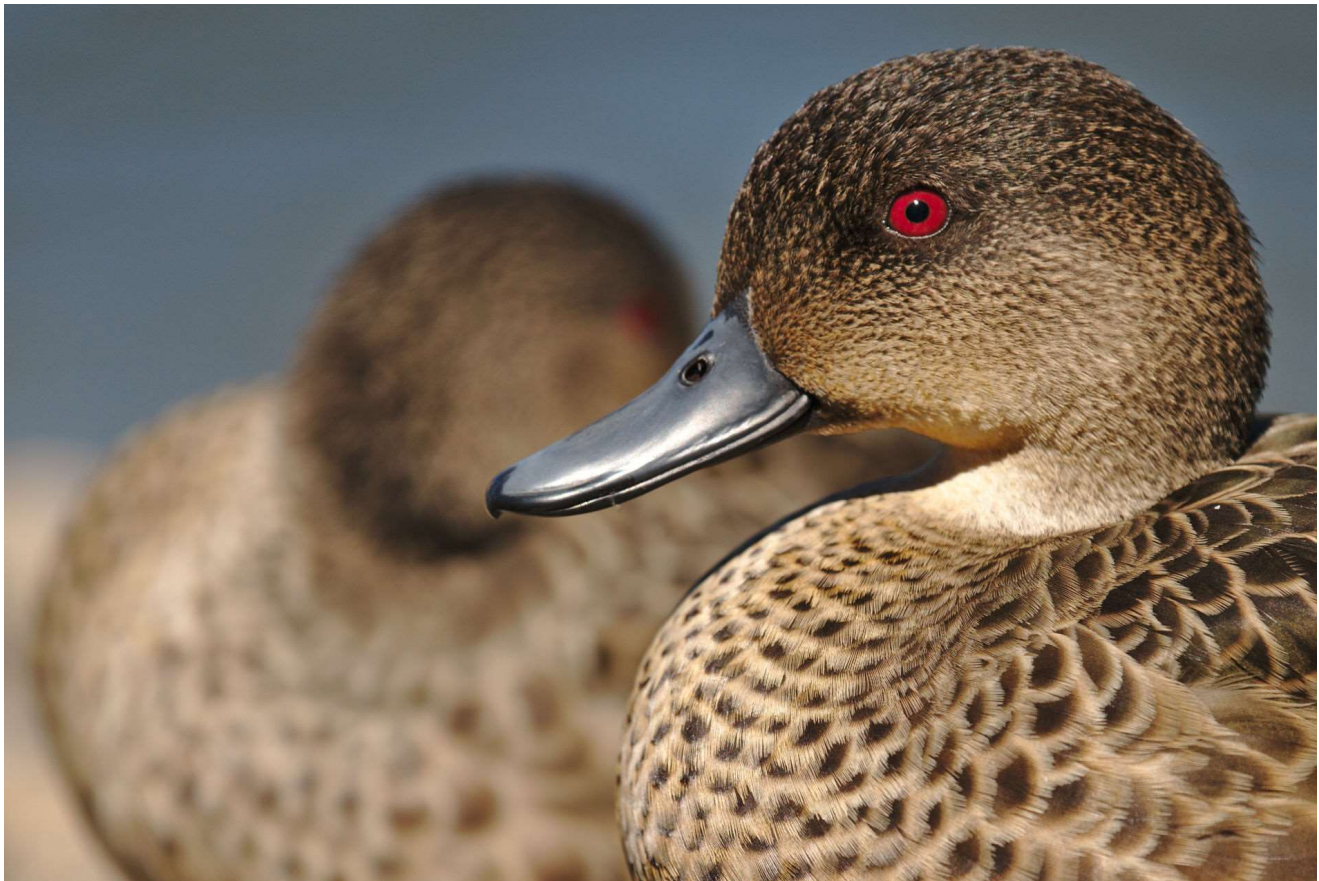
### **OVERSEAS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Chris Tuffley with the Yorkshire Dales
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Chris Tuffley with the Lakes District
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Chris Tuffley with Campsite in the Kowmung

### **TOPICAL**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Chris Tuffley with Morning chat on the Whanahuia Range
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Elly Arnst with Rest time
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Chris Tuffley with Cooking dinner in the Kowmung

Thanks to Harley and well done to everyone – those who entered a photo, those who attended and helped select the winners and of course to the place-getters.



*Chris Tuffleys' Grey Teal took first place in the Flora and Fauna section of the club's photo competition*

**Trip card for the rest of the year**

Note that this is a 'Living document' so check the website for the most up-to-date information on trips.

November 2021				
5-7	Upper Pohangina		Janet Wilson	329 4722
7 (Sunday)	Beginner tramp #3	Postponed	Anne Lawrence	357 1695
13-14	Pohangina River	M/F	Janet Wilson	329 4722
14	Wharite	E	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
20-21				
day				
27-28	Ellis Hut	E	Bruce van Brunt	328 4761
day				
December 2021				
4-5	Stanfield/A-frame	E	Elly Arnst	022 682 3136
5	Deerford loop	E	Graeme Richards	021 149 8267
11-12				
18-19	Short-Knights	E/M	Warren Wheeler	356 1998





## PNTMC Newsletter November 2021

- Trip reports
- Photo competition results
- Upcoming events

Send articles to Michelle Benton,  
the newsletter editor at [mchll291@gmail.com](mailto:mchll291@gmail.com)

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Get out and about with us!

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### PNTMC Contacts

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